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NIS COMMITTEE MEETING NO. 160  
22 December 1953

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NO CHANGE IN CLASS. ☐  
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NEXT REVIEW DATE  
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DATE: 6 NOV 1988 BY: 016645

1. The following were present:

Mr. Clinton	State
Major Jacobson	Army
Colonel Kirgis, USMC	Navy
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	CIA (Chairman)

2. NIS Questionnaire

The Chairman distributed to the members the revised draft of the NIS Questionnaire under transmittal memorandum dated 17 December 1953 requesting that the respective Departments survey their users of the NIS and return all replies to the Chairman by 15 March 1954. The CIA will concurrently survey users of the NIS who receive their copies from CIA, including non-IAC Agencies but excluding foreign governments. The Chairman reminded the members that stress should be given in departmental covering memoranda for the recipients to reply in complete and meaningful terms.

3. NIS Memo No. 17

The Committee discussed the revision of NIS Memo No. 17 (classification of certain NIS aspects) required by Executive Order #10501. Specifically, item (d) "NIS Areas by name associated with NIS number", and item (e) "NIS allocations", are presently classified "Restricted". The Chairman proposed that both be declassified. The Navy member felt that the close association of these items with the NIS production schedule, which is classified "Confidential", requires that they also be classified at this level. The Committee decided to defer decision on this matter until the members could determine the views of their Agencies. In the interim, both items will be considered as carrying a classification equivalent to "Confidential".

4. F.O.A. Request for NIS 9

All members reported approval by their Agencies of the request by F.O.A. for all chapters on NIS 9 (Spain). The Chairman will so notify the Secretary, Intelligence Advisory Committee.

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## 5. Classification Matters

The Chairman reported that all Agencies were in agreement on the classification to be afforded NIS material and NIS Gazetteers. In addition to the formal notifications reported in NIS Committee Meeting No. 159, the following are noted for the record:

**State:** By memorandum dated 15 December 1953 the NIS Coordinator for State requested that all State-produced NIS elements which had been classified "Restricted" be reclassified "Confidential". He further recommended that all NIS Gazetteers be unclassified. These decisions, he noted, were made without benefit of full instructions concerning the application of Executive Order #10501 within the Department of State, the issuance of which had been delayed. In consequence, they are subject to reexamination when full Departmental instructions are forthcoming.

**Navy:** The Navy member requested by memorandum dated 14 December 1953 that all Navy contributions for the NIS which presently bear the classification "Restricted" be upgraded to "Confidential". Navy has no objection to the proposed declassification of the NIS Gazetteers.

The Chairman reported that he had taken action in line with the unanimous decision of the members by issuing the following notice dated 15 December 1953:

"MEMORANDUM TO: All Holders of National Intelligence Surveys and NIS Preliminary Gazetteers

SUBJECT: Change of Classification

REFERENCE: Executive Order "Safeguarding Official Information in the Interests of the Defense of the United States", dated 5 November 1953.

"1. Pursuant to provisions of reference Executive Order the NIS Committee has determined in consultation with the CIA and the Intelligence Agencies of State, Army, Navy, and Air Force that:

a. All materials contained in the National Intelligence Surveys shall bear the classification of "Confidential" or higher.

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b. The NIS Preliminary Gazetteers shall be unclassified, but shall bear the control statement "For Official Use Only".

"2. All holders of the National Intelligence Surveys and all holders of the NIS Preliminary Gazetteers are directed to change the classification of all materials contained therein to conform to the above provisions, namely:

a. Change the classification "Restricted" wherever it appears in the National Intelligence Surveys to "Confidential".

b. Remove the classification "Restricted" from the NIS Preliminary Gazetteers and mark them with the statement "For Official Use Only".

"3. Future publication of the National Intelligence Surveys and the NIS Preliminary Gazetteers will reflect these changes.

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/s/  
/t/

Chairman  
NIS Committee"

#### 6. NIS Gazetteers

The Chairman stated that the application of the control "For Official Use Only" on NIS Gazetteers was necessary to protect them from getting into unauthorized channels. Declassifying the Gazetteers will probably result in the eventual release of the Gazetteer name lists to the U.S. Board on Geographic Names for use of the public, probably through published gazetteers put on sale by the Superintendent of Documents. The Chairman expressed the desire that through this means the use of standard geographic names would be greatly extended to the ultimate benefit of the intelligence community. The pioneering work developed under the NIS Program has already produced NIS Gazetteers on more than 60 countries. The release of these standard geographic names to DGN may well result in sufficient impetus to produce a publicly supported gazetteer program that can eventually supersede the NIS Gazetteer Program and thereby result in considerable savings to the Government.

In respect to changes in official geographic names, the Committee agreed that for NIS purposes the stabilization of geographic names was more important than attempting to maintain current all name changes generated by

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BGN. It was the opinion of the Committee that the proper time to reflect such changes is when Gazetteers are revised. This would permit contributors and users of the NIS to place full reliance on the existing NIS Gazetteers and would ensure maximum uniformity of geographic name usage throughout NIS publications.

#### 7. Release of NIS Through Special Channels

The Chairman distributed to the members copies of a request from Chief, Liaison Division, OCD, dated 15 December 1953 for the release of certain NIS to specified foreign governments by special channels. Any conditions, restrictions, or caveats that the producing Agencies may wish to impose on the release, or partial release, of these NIS will be strictly observed. The Chairman requested that the members report the views of their Agencies on this request not later than the next meeting so that he could make a report to the Secretary, IAC.

#### 8. Chapter I Production

The Chairman noted that all sections of Chapter I on Iran will be ready for Committee examination by the next meeting on 12 January 1954, with the possible exception of Section 16 (Economic), which State expects to complete by that time. In order that D/B may attach general comments for the guidance of the members, he requested that all contributions be transmitted to D/B at the earliest practicable date.

The Navy member urged that landing beach data and better terrain rendering be included in the Chapter I map on Iran. The Chairman replied that these and many other suggestions would be considered by the Committee during the review of Chapter I.

With regard to the production of other Chapters I, the Chairman reported that only three NIS Areas will be substantially completed this fiscal year; namely, Norway, Denmark, and Thailand. He requested members to reexamine the FY 1955 tentative production schedule with the view to incorporating those sections which will permit the completion of a maximum number of Areas during that year, so that a realistic Chapter I production may be developed. In this respect, attention of the members was invited to D/B memo of 16 September 1953 which sets forth the status of incomplete NIS in the higher priority Areas. Members were also urged to reexamine the Maintenance Program to determine whether all sections scheduled for revision in FY 1955 meet the criteria for maintenance which the Chairman had mentioned at the last meeting.

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9. The Chairman expressed concern over the duplication between some departmental publications and NIS. He felt that the present emphasis on economy in Government made it mandatory for a careful examination to be made by each Agency of such existing duplication with the view to elimination of unnecessary duplication. As an example he noted that the Signal Corps Intelligence Study - Netherlands, dated May 1953, was a more complete and better written document than the related NIS Supplement III (Telecommunications), although both were produced by the same contributor.

Since the Signal Corps was apparently producing these Intelligence Studies on all important foreign countries, the Chairman proposed to the Committee that, in the interests of economy and elimination of unnecessary duplication, early consideration be given to discontinuing the publication of NIS Supplement III. This action would require revision of the outline for Section 38 (Telecommunications) to include certain topics from Supplement III so as to round out the general subject of telecommunications for NIS users who could rely on the Signal Corps Intelligence Studies for the more technical aspects of the subject.

The Army member agreed to examine the Chairman's proposal with G-2 and the Signal Corps and make report to the Committee at the next meeting.

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10. The Chairman stated that D/B had examined OIR (State) Intelligence Report [redacted] dated 25 November 1953, which had been adapted from Section 57 of the NIS draft [redacted]. The D/B examination indicated that the OIR version was superior to the NIS contribution, although there was only three months' difference in their release dates. Two points were emphasized: (1) the wide dissemination afforded the OIR Report is contrary to NIS policy; and (2) the superior quality of the OIR Report should be reflected in the NIS contribution.

11. NIS Boundary Changes

The Committee considered proposals of the Army member, based upon recommendations of the Chapter II Coordinator, for the following changes in NIS Area boundaries:

- |        |   |
|--------|---|
| NIS 25 | Apply this number to Cyprus only; redistribute Gibraltar to NIS 9 and Malta to NIS 17.            |
| NIS 40 | Remove the west-central corner from consideration under NIS 26-III and reincorporate with NIS 40. |

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NIS 44 Apply this number to Malaya only; transfer the British dependencies on Borneo to NIS 100.

NIS 100 Place the whole of New Guinea in NIS 102.

The Committee disapproved the proposal on NIS Area 25 on the grounds that the common British sovereignty furnished a better and more practical basis for the development of the three areas than the proposed treatment. The Committee did not have sufficient facts to reach decision on the other proposals, and decided to set up a working committee representing State, Army, Navy, and D/B to look into the matter. The Air Force member stated he would abide by the views of the other Agencies, since the Air Force had no requirements that were affected by this matter.

12. Omission of Sections 35 for Certain Areas

The Army member proposed that the production of Sections 35 (Ports and Naval Facilities) on NIS 34 and NIS 40 be omitted since they were landlocked areas. The Committee approved the proposal and requested these areas be added to paragraph 2 of the list appearing in the proceedings of NIS Committee Meeting No. 159.

13. The next meeting of the NIS Committee was set for 1000 hours on Tuesday, 12 January 1954.

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Distribution:

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